From: Snowbarger, Robert
To: R6HarveyInfo
Subject: FW: READ ME - air monitoring
Date: Saturday, September 16, 2017 9:47:15 AM

From: Smalley, Bryant
Sent: Monday, September 11, 2017 2:41 PM
To: Thompson, Steve <thompson.steve@epa.gov>; Snowbarger, Robert <Snowbarger.Robert@epa.gov>
Cc: Carroll, Craig <Carroll.Craig@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: READ ME - air monitoring

FYI – The top paragraph is verbatim from the news story you were reading.

Bryant

From: Gray, David
Sent: Wednesday, September 06, 2017 11:52 AM
To: Peterson, Mary <Peterson.Mary@epa.gov>; Edlund, Carl <Edlund.Carl@epa.gov>; Smalley, Bryant <smalley.bryant@epa.gov>; Smith, Monica <smith.monica@epa.gov>; R6HarveyRICT <R6HarveyRICT@epa.gov>
Subject: READ ME - air monitoring

An assessment by EPA of the Valero Refinery on Monday, September 5, 2017, confirmed that a tank at the facility did have a leak which occurred on August 26, 2017 from the Hurricane Harvey storm and flooding. EPA also confirmed Valero had taken action to respond to and repair the leak. Based on current site conditions including weather, repair actions by Valero, and air monitoring results, EPA's assessment could not confirm the tank was the source of the air release that led to complaints in the area immediately after the storm. EPA's air monitoring performed onsite and around the facility on September 5 does not indicate levels of concern for the community. EPA will continue air monitoring for additional

sources in the area.

Background

EPA continues to conduct ambient air monitoring in Houston, and is focusing on an area of potential concern associated with reported air emissions from a Valero facility in Houston. EPA has been on-scene conducting real-time air monitoring near the facility.

EPA conducted extensive air monitoring on 9/5/17 in the Manchester community. Benzene was observed at many locations at levels less than 1 part per billion by volume (ppbv). A benzene concentration at 19 ppbv was observed around Avenue L and 97th Street. Toluene and xylene were also observed at levels less than 20 ppbv. The air concentrations of benzene, toluene and xylene are below the TCEQ short-term Effects Screening Levels (ESLs) of 53 ppbv, 1,200 ppbv and 510 ppbv, respectively.

EPA continues to investigate complaints in the area. EPA's Trace Atmospheric Gas Analyzer (TAGA) air monitoring bus will conduct air monitoring in southeast Houston and will continue to conduct air monitoring around other refineries as they start back up.